

[Telegram]

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 23, 1919.

THE GOVERNOR, *Raleigh, N. C.*

Reference *Raleigh News and Observer's* account of criticism expressed on passage of my report quoting a newspaper account of draft resistance, I am mailing tonight a full letter of explanation which I trust will be satisfactory. Express to members of Legislature my deep regret that such newspaper account was incorporated in my report. The administration of the draft in North Carolina has been one of the brightest spots of the Selective Service system. I am handing copies of my letter to Senators Overman and Simmons.

CROWDER.

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## STATE INCOME TAX AMENDMENT

RALEIGH, N. C., February 28, 1919.

*The Gentlemen of the Senate:*

The income tax amendment is the most vital measure before this General Assembly. The proposed amendment is the essence of equity and opens the door to a model system of taxation in North Carolina. North Carolina is the only state in the American Union where the General Assembly is denied the right to levy such a tax if it is deemed wise and just to do so.

The proposed amendment levies no tax. It simply gives the General Assembly the power to levy it whenever in its wisdom it may see fit to do so. The Senate is not called upon to say whether or not the General Assembly should have such power, but you are called upon to say whether or not the people of North Carolina shall be given an opportunity to register their opinion on this question.

A Senator may be conscientiously opposed to an income tax, but it does not follow that he should deny to the people the same opportunity to express their conscientious convictions as he claims for himself.

The Special Tax Commission was composed of Mr. Frank Linney, Chairman of the Republican Executive Committee, Mr. J. Z. Green, State Lecturer and Organizer of the Farmers' Union, Mr. Henry A. Page, State Food Administrator, a legislator of large experience, and a man with wide business connections, the Chairman of the Corporation Commission, intimately acquainted with tax conditions in every state in the Union, Mr. James H. Pou, known throughout the State for his broad sympathies with the business life of the State, Mr. W. Vance Brown of Asheville, a man of large property interests, and who has taken a great interest in all questions of taxation, and the Governor of the State.

This Commission, with the exception of Mr. Brown, who did not object to the income tax, but to other features of the report, unanimously recommended the submission of this amendment. The bill was introduced in the House by Hon. R. A. Doughton, Ex-Lieutenant Governor and Ex-Speaker of the House, a legislator of wide experience and conservative patriotism; was referred to the committee, and after a full and thorough discussion was reported favorably by a